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RHMFISS/USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1041  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 000379

SIPDIS

EUR-RPM FOR CARPENTER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/2019

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SUBJECT: NATO PARTICIPATION IN BALTIC EXERCISES - REQUEST  
FOR GUIDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER 8 NAC

REF: SEPTEMBER 4 USNATO EUR-RPM E-MAIL

Classified By: A/DCM Kate Byrnes.  
Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C/NF) The September 8 meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) will coincide with the commencement of "Zapad 09," a large scale Russian and Belarusian military exercise which will take place in close proximity to Baltic NATO Allies' territory. We predict that this event will prompt a NAC discussion on Baltic Allies' concerns.

¶2. (C/NF) The Defense Ministers of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania had written to former NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on June 16, 2009 to request NATO participation in Exercise Baltic Host 10, which is scheduled for May/June 2010 (Ref A). USNATO understands that they never received a reply.

¶3. (C/NF) USNATO requests guidance on making the following points in the September 8 NAC:

- We share the concern of our Baltic Allies.
- At the same time we recognize this exercise was announced, and that this exercise does in principle incorporate observers through the application of the Vienna Document.
- We have no objection to the idea of exercises.
- Our goal should be to approach the issue in the same way on Allied territory.
- In that regard the Secretary General should schedule the work of Allies to examine and positively answer the previous request of our Baltic Allies that there be NATO involvement in Exercise Baltic Host 2010.

DAALDER